

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 120994

R 220252Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5853

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY

SUBJ: DEMO CONTINUES AT PATTANI

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK DEC 19 FM SONGKHLA RPTD

FOR YOU INFO:

SONGKHLA 223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY

SUBJ: DEMO CONTINUES AT PATTANI

REF: SONGKHLA 221

1. SEVERAL THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUE VIGIL AT
PATTANI MOSQUE PROTESTING RECENT MUSLIM DEATHS (REFTEL).
VILLAGERS NOW SPILLING OVER ONTO ROAD AND BLOCKING TRAFFIC
(MOSSQUE LIES ON MAIN PATTANI-YALA ROAD AND IS CENTRAL MOSQUE
FOR ALL MUSLIMS IN SOUTH THAILAND).

2. RTG DELEGATION FROM BANGKOK WHICH CONSISTED OF INTERIOR
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MINISTER BOONTENG AND BANGKOK'S MUSLIM LEADER SEEMS TO

HAVE FAILED. BOTH LEFT PATTANI DECEMBER 18 TO CARRY BACK
DEMAND THAT PM KHUKRIT COME SOUTH HIMSELF (REFTEL).

3. CALL FOR KHUKRIT TO COME SEEKS GENUINE RESPONSE TO
SAME OLD RTG METHODS OF SENDING DOWN CABINET PEOPLE OR
FOLLOWING SITUATION ONLY FROM GOVERNORS' AND POLICE REPORTS.
MUSLIMS FEEL THEY OUGHT TO MAKE THEIR GRIEVANCES KNOWN
DIRECTLY TO PM.

4. LIKELY THAT STUDENT AGITATORS FROM BANGKOK AND SEPARATISTS
ARE NOW INVOLVED IN PROTEST AS WELL. MALAYSIAN RADIO
STATION IN KELANTAN REPORTEDLY BROADCASTING STATEMENTS
CRITICAL OF RTG "OPPRESSION" OF MUSLIMS AND SYMPATHIZING
WITH SEPARATISTS.

5. FURTHER COMPLICATING ISSUE IS FACT THAT MUSLIM MODERATES
SEEM TO BE LED BY HAJI AMIN TOMENA, WHO IS CONSERVATIVE
RELIGIOUS LEADER AND EX-MP FROM THANOM/PRAPHAT POLITICAL
PARTY. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HAJI AMIN IS ALSO SON OF
HAJI SULONG, WHO WAS LEADER OF MUSLIM REBELLION IN 1950'S,
AND NOVEMBER 30 DEATHS OBVIOUSLY EVOKE MURDERS OF HIS FATHER
AND OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN 1950'S WHICH ALSO WENT UN-
PUNISHED. (HAJI SULONG WAS FOUND DROWN IN SONGKHLA LAKE,
REPORTEDLY ON ORDERS FROM BOONLERT LERTPRICHA, CURRENT DEPUTY
MINISTER OF INTERIOR, WHO WAS SPECIAL BRANCH CHIEF FOR SOUTH
THAILAND IN THOSE WILDER WEST DAYS).

6. ROOTS OF CURRENT SITUATION, THEREFORE, EXTREMELY ENTANGLED
AND EMOTIONS DEEP. POTENTIAL FOR AGITATORS IS VAST, AND
COMMUNAL PROBLEMS FOR RTG LIKELY TO CONTINUE. CASTRODALE
WHITEHOUSE

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